TL456

日本カトリック正義と平和協議会

(102) 東京都千代田区六番町10—1

JAPANESE CATHOLIC COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE
10-1 ROKUBANCHO, CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO. 102

CABLE: NACATHCOM
略電 ナカコム
TEL 03-264-5714

27 July 1992

Honorable Chairman and distinguished Committee Members:

We are very grateful for having been given this opportunity of addressing this session of the Special Committee on Decolonization, which is meeting at a crucial time in the history of East Timor.

1. It is said that the Santa Cruz Massacre of 12 November 1991 is the greatest spontaneous massacre by the Indonesians in their 17-year occupation of East Timor. It is truly very sad that so many young people with their whole future ahead of them should have lost their lives in this incident. However, thanks to the courageoous action of journalists and others who witnessed this incident and reported on it, the East Timor question came to draw the attention and prayers of people concerned with justice and peace around the world. And, needless to say, expectations for the early resolution of the East Timorese question by the United Nations are mounting with each passing day.

2. The Japanese Catholic Council for Justice and Peace has worked on various international issues in the past. It has been astounded, however, at the cleverness of the Indonesian Government in manipulating information in connexion with the East Timorese question. Despite these illegal manipulations, Indonesian violations of human rights are reaching the outside world through the brave actions of the East Timorese inside and outside East Timor with the warm support of collaborating organizations around the world. According to information the Council has received directly from East Timor, casualties of the Santa Cruz Massacre is estimated at around 250 or five times the number announced by the Indonesian Government. Information attesting to increased oppression after the Massacre has been accumulating without stop. After the Massacre, Catholics around the world were concerned for the welfare of Bishop Carlos Filipe Belo, Apostolic Administrator of Dili, Fathers Alberto Ricardo da Silva and Domingos Soares and other members of the clergy and petitions were sent to various authorities. It is reported in recent days that members of the hierarchy and priests wishing to visit the local churches to give humanitarian assistance, have been denied visas. We are deeply concerned with this situation. We believe that the United Nations should strive to tell the international society the truth of what is going on in East Timor. In this context, I think that it is vital

on in East Timor. In this context, I think that it is vital that the texts of the reports of Mr. Amos Waco and Pieter Kooijmans, who were sent by the United Nations to conduct special investigations of the Massacre, be published in their entirety.

3. The public disclosure of the above information is necessary to denounce the injustice of the trials of East Timorese youth arrested at the Santa Cruz Massacre incident. The sentences passed at their trials held in Dili and Jakarta were the very embodiment of injustice. The numerous international witnesses of the Santa Cruz incident have testified that the actions of the East Timorese youth at Santa Cruz were appropriate exercise of their "freedom of speech and expression," which is an uncontestable right of theirs. Consequently, their arrest in itself is an act of violence without any grounds on the part of the Indonesian Government.

The United Nations, which has a special responsibility to maintain international peace, should present these facts to the international community and strongly censure the Indonesian Government.

4. In conclusion, we would like to support wholeheartedly the proposal for the resolution of the Timor Question submitted by Bishop Belo after the Massacre and to request the United Nations to exert every effort for its implementation. The core of the proposal is unconditional tripartite talks between Portugal, Indonesia and East Timor (Representatives of the resistance and the Church). Our Council has been trying to grasp the thinking of the East Timorese by sending members of the Council to East Timor. We have found as a result that all East Timorese, living in and outside of East Timor deeply regret that they have still not been given the opportunity to determine their own nationality and that they desire to make their decision through a "national referendum."

As a preliminary step (to this referendum) the above proposal for tripartite talks of Bishop Belo is one which must be urgently and seriously addressed. Insofar as our Council is aware, the East Timorese people have an agreed approach to the selection of representatives for such talks.

5. We wish to conclude our statement by appealing to the United Nations from the bottom of our hearts to use every means at their disposal including the despatch of United Nations Peace Keeping Forces for the resolution of the East Timorese question so that the long-suffering people of East Timor may regain their liberty and peace as soon as possible.

I thank you for your kind attention.